CHAPTER XLVI: MANIA

CLANK!

CLANK!

HH-

HH-

HH-

WHAT SHOULD WE DO, WE'VE ENDED UP IN A MATCH?!

AND WE'RE UP AGAINST "THAT"!

IS... IS IT SNARLING AT US?!

NO WAY...

AND WHO'S GONNA FACE IT HEAD ON?! NO WAY AM I!

ケラ・ケラ

MAS-TER...

オロ

オロ

HOW ABOUT ONE OF US FACES IT HEAD ON, WHILE THE OTHER TWO ATTACK FROM ITS SIDES...

WHAT DO WE DO, WHAT DO WE DO?!

ブル

EVEN IF I HAD TAUGHT THEM SOME SORT OF MAKESHIFT STRATEGY, THEY WOULDN'T KNOW THE REASONING BEHIND THE MOVES.

THEY'RE STILL BEGINNERS, THEY CAN'T EVEN THROW A JAB.

MAS-TER...

HALF OF THEM ONLY CAME TO KILL TIME.

BUT WHAT DO YOU THINK THE BORED AUDIENCE WILL MAKE OF IT?

ALL MANNER OF SHOWY ACTS ARE A MUST.

THOUGH IT REALLY MAKES A MOCKERY OF BOXING!

THAT'S A FINE PLAN.

SO YOU WANT THEM TO BE "MONKEY TRAINERS" THEN?

ガチャ…

ガチャ.

ハッキーン

ズシン

ズシン

THEY'D AT LEAST BE ABLE TO PROTECT THEMSELVES A BIT...

WERE THEY TO COOPERATE, THEN EVEN AS BEGINNERS THEY'D HAVE A MEANS OF ESCAPE.

ガタ ガタ

DAMN IT, DAMN IT!

WHY'D THIS HAVE TO HAPPEN TO ME...?!

YOU TWO TAKE ITS SIDES!

I'LL TAKE THE FRONT THEN!

ガタ

ガタ

IT... IT'S COMING!

ガタ

ガタ

ガタ

BEGIN!

AAARGH!

UH...

HAH.

HAH.

GET-TY!

HELP ME!

HYAAH!

EEK!

AAAAAAAAAH!

ﾀﾞﾝ

ﾀﾞﾝ

ﾀﾞﾝ

ﾀﾞﾝ

ﾀﾞﾝ

WAIT PEDRO!

DON'T...

HAS BEEN COMPLETELY CUT OFF!

WITH THIS THEIR ONLY CHANCE OF ESCAPE...

THEY'VE FALLEN TO PIECES...!

IT'S USE-LESS.

YOUR HEART FOLDS TO YOUR OPPONENT!

YOU'VE LOST THE MOMENT THAT...

YOU MAY MAY TURN YOUR BACK...

YET CAN YOU DO ANYTHING BUT FLEE?

YET IS THERE ANYTHING TO SEE BAR THAT TERROR?

YOU MIGHT LOOK AWAY...

フル

フル

AAH?! DON'T FUCK AROUND KID!

SPARE ME, LET ME GO!

S...

FUKYAAAA!

I'LL BE KILLED, I DON'T WANNA DIE!

GET BACK THERE YOU DAMN IDIOT!

GAWAAAH!

!

ハァ…

ハァ…

ハァ…

HAAH...

HAAH...

HAAH...

ガラ…

...!

STAY BACK...

G... GET AWAY.

EEEK!

N...
NOOO!

I CAN'T
DO IT...

PLEASE,
LET
ME...

THE HELL, THAT'S IT?!

OIII, SEND OUT A BETTER OPPONENT!

THAT'S ENOUGH, STOP IT!

ボコッ

ボコッ

ボコッ

GURGH...

UUH...

WHY DO WE HAVE TO FACE SUCH CRITICISM?!

SHIT, THIS IS BAD.

WHO RISK OUR LIVES IN COMBAT, NOTHING MORE THAN IDLE ENTERTAINMENT TO THE AUDIENCE?!

NONE OF THEM HAVE ANY IDEA HOW TERRIFYING OR PAINFUL IT IS TO BE PUNCHED...!

THE AUDIENCE AIN'T PARTICULARLY PLEASED WITH THIS...

WE CAN'T GO BACK IF THINGS STAY AS THEY ARE.

ARE WE SLAVE BOXERS...

EH?

SORRY MISS.

BUT HOW ABOUT YOU GO OUT THERE FOR ONE MORE MATCH?

THIS IS AN EMER-GENCY.

WE'LL LOSE FACE...

IF WE DON'T SEND ANYONE OUT...

...

THE SPECTATORS ARE ALREADY UP IN ARMS...

WE NEED TO TURN THINGS AROUND.

I CHOSE HIM AS HE'D BE A POPULAR PIECE WITH THE AUDIENCE.

DON'T YOU HAVE OTHER FIGHTERS TO USE INSTEAD?

WHY DO YOU WANT TO SEND CESTVS OUT AGAIN?

WE COULD USE THE MONSTER TO SPREAD HIS NAME THROUGHOUT THE WORLD...

WE COULD SELL THEM IT AS THE TALE OF A RISING STAR TEARING DOWN A BEAST?

...

ボ〃ソ！！

ボ〃ソ！！

ALL EYES WERE ON CESTVS AFTER THAT GRUELING DEBUT MATCH.

DON'T YOU THINK IT'D BE A GREAT IDEA TO BOOST HIS POPULARITY INSTANTLY?

WHY'D YOU SEND OUT THOSE THREE THEN?

A TALE YOU SAY?

CALL IT PARENTAL AFFECTION.

I JUST FIGURED IT'D BE *GOOD* TO SEE THEM FIGHT AT LEAST ONCE.

YOU DO LIKE TO ASK DULL QUESTIONS DON'T YOU?

BOTH HIS IDEAS AND HIS SCHEMES ARE DISGUSTING.

HE'S ONE BLACK HEARTED PARENT.

WELL THEN, I'LL LEAVE IT TO YOU.

AS THE HEAD OF A TROUPE HE HAS ESSENTIAL WORLDLY WISDOM BUT...

HIDDEN BENEATH HIS WORDS AND ACTIONS LIES ONLY THE DESIRE TO MAKE MONEY.

I CANNOT SURPRESS MY INDIGNATION!

WILL I BE ABLE TO RAISE MY FOUR DISCIPLES UNDER SUCH A MAN SAFELY...?

HE JUDGED THEM TO BE WORTHLESS AND LEFT THEM LIKE THIS.

FIGHTS ARE THE ONLY GUIDE I HAVE TO FREEDOM.

NO...

ARE YOU INJURED ANY-WHERE?

ARE YOU TIRED?

NO I'M GOOD TO GO.

I CANNOT LAMENT...

I'VE NO RETREAT PATH...

HE'S A SHAM MONSTER WHO THEY'VE SET UP WITH A SIMPLE ACT.

YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO TELL, BUT HE HAS NO BOXING SKILLS WHATSOEVER.

DON'T BE FLUSTERED BY HIS BIZARRE ACTS.

IF YOU FIGHT CAREFULLY, THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN LOSE!

I'LL AVENGE THE THREE WHOM HE DEFEATED!

YOU WON'T KNOW WHAT HE'S THINKING.

ALL YOU SHOULD BE WARY OF ARE ANY SURPRISE ATTACKS.

ハァ

ハァ

ズ"ミ"ュ..

ミ"ュルル

ミ"ュッッ..

YOU CAN'T GROW STRONGER IN THIS WORLD BY CHEWING ON RAW FLESH.

BEGIN!

I THINK YOU CAN OVERWHELM ME WITH THAT BLUFF DO YOU?

ズラァ

ガラァ

ミ〃リ..

?!

レロ〃

HE'S COMPLETELY UNGUARDED?

ス..

HIS FACE IS EVEN WITHIN MY RANGE...

WHAT'S WITH THAT ODD LOOK?

ARE YOU INVITING ME TO PUNCH YOU...?

DOES THE BASTARD REALLY THINK IT WON'T WORK?

DON'T YOU DARE MOCK ME!

ZIIIP

!

BLOOD?!